

cimens. As the creature is destitute of claws to the feet, which could be used as instruments of support, and has suctorial disks instead, it appears probable that it would be capable of traversing such surfaces only as were sufficiently even for the action of the disks, and that suitable surfaces might be furnished by the fruit or leaves of many of the trees of tropical America, from which the pig-like snout of the animal would be well adapted for taking minute insects in a state of rest.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Note on Dysidea papillosa, Johnston.

By Dr. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S. &c.

MR. GEORGE BARLEE, on the 28th of August, wrote to me from Lerwick—"I have a curious Zoophyte I can send you: it is Johnston's *Dysidea papillosa*: it is not a Sponge, but a true Zoophyte: I saw the polype at work constantly: it is very abundant here." In another note, of the 8th of September, he further observes—"I saw, at Mr. Bean's, Johnston's *Dysidea papillosa*, and find it quite identical with my shell and organism, although the former is attached to a shell, and mine is free, which at once sets the matter at rest." Mr. Barlee further adds (November 3), "that there were more came up in the dredge free, than were attached, and that they seem to abound on muddy ground both east and north of Brassey Island, about thirty miles off, and in about 70 or 80 fathoms of water. The polype seemed generally very active, and I saw no shifting of position of the animals while I had them in the basin, although there might have been some during the nights; but I often watched them for half-an-hour at a time, and perceived no change of position."

Mr. Barlee has kindly sent some specimens to the British Museum. The coral has all the more important external characters and organization of the genus *Corticifera* of Lesueur (Acad. Nat. Sci. Philad. i. 178. t. 8. f. 6, 7), found in the West India islands. But a genus (*Sidisia*) must be formed for it, as, while *Corticifera* consists of a number of short cylindrical animals springing from an expanded base, *Sidisia* is cylindrical, more or less branched, and free, or only attached by its base to a shell or rock.

On the Auditory Apparatus of Insects. By C. LESPÉS.

The author places the seat of hearing in Insects in the antennæ. He refers to the apertures in the surface of the antennæ described by Erichson, which, he states, exist in all insects; they are closed by a membrane like the tympanum, or rather, like the *fenestra rotunda* of the ear of the Vertebrata. These the author proposes to call *tympanules*.

Behind the membrane or tympanule, and applied directly to its surface, there is a small sac filled with a thick fluid, and almost always containing a solid body; this is probably an auditory sac